

AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

1. Cancelled

2. Cancelled

3. (Previously Presented) A method, comprising:

storing encrypted information associated with a computer program;

obtaining personal information as part of a startup sequence for said computer program; and

reading said encrypted information, decrypting information contained therein to obtain decrypted information, and comparing said personal information with said decrypted information;

allowing said computer program to run normally only if said personal information agrees with said decrypted information in a specified way;

wherein said personal information is biometric information, and said comparing comprises comparing said biometric information with other biometric information in said encrypted information, and

further comprising installing said computer program by entering a biometric code, sending said biometric code to a server, encrypting said biometric code at said server and returning an encrypted sequence to said computer program as said encrypted information.

4. (Original) A method as in claim 3, wherein said encrypting uses a private key at said server, and said decrypting verifies a signature of said private key.

5. (Original) A method as in claim 3, wherein said encrypting uses a private key at said server, and said decrypting uses a public key included as a part of said computer program.

6. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 3, further comprising determining if a biometric reader is attached to a port, and wherein said program is only allowed to run if said biometric reader is attached to said port.

7. (Previously Presented) A method, comprising:  
storing encrypted information associated with a computer program;  
obtaining personal information as part of a startup sequence for said computer program; and

reading said encrypted information, decrypting information contained therein to obtain decrypted information, and comparing said personal information with said decrypted information;

allowing said computer program to run normally only if said personal information agrees with said decrypted information in a specified way; and

further comprising allowing the software to run in a limited exception mode without establishing that said personal information agrees with said decrypted information.

8. (Previously Presented) A method, comprising:  
requesting a computer system to install a specified computer program;  
determining whether said computer program is verified for installation;  
obtaining a reference biometric information from an authorized user at the time of installing the software, responsive to said determining that said computer program is verified for installation; and  
thereafter allowing said program to run normally only when biometric information is obtained which matches said reference biometric information.
9. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 8 wherein said determining comprises determining if a specified license used for said installation has already been used for another installation.
10. (Original) A method as in claim 8 wherein said determining uses a specified unique code that was distributed with the program, and determines from a server whether said unique code has already been used for an installation.
11. (Original) A method as in claim 8, further comprising, after determining that said installation is authorized, sending said reference biometric information to a server.

12. (Original) A method as in claim 11, further comprising, at the server, encrypting said reference biometric information, and returning encrypted biometric reference information which is stored with said program, and which is used by said allowing.

13. (Original) A method as in claim 8, wherein said allowing retrieves encrypted biometric information, decrypts said biometric information, and allows said program to run normally only if said decrypted biometric information matches a currently entered biometric information.

14. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 12, comprising:  
requesting a computer system to install a specified computer program;  
determining whether said computer program is verified for installation;  
obtaining a reference biometric information from an authorized user at the time of  
installing the software, responsive to said determining that said computer program is  
verified for installation; and  
thereafter allowing said program to run normally only when biometric information  
is obtained which matches said reference biometric information;  
after determining that said installation is authorized, sending said reference  
biometric information to a server, at the server, encrypting said reference biometric  
information, and returning encrypted biometric reference information which is stored  
with said program, and which is used by said allowing, wherein said reference biometric  
information is encrypted at said server using a private key of a public key-private key

pair, and said reference biometric information is decrypted when software is to be run, using said public key corresponding to said private key.

15. Cancelled

16. Cancelled

17. Cancelled

18-20 (cancelled)

21. Cancelled